

MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER



2019 - 2020 CALENDAR

UPCOMING

School of Leaders: 9:00 - 11:30 AM

01/04, 02/08, 03/21, 04/25, 05/23,
06/13, 07/11, 08/22, 09/19,
10/10, 11/14, 12/05

Sacred Heart, Salisbury, NC

Spring Encounter

April 17-19, 2020 **CANCELLED**
Miami, Florida

Men's Weekend

July 30 - Aug 2, 2020
St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro, NC

Women's Weekend

August 6-9, 2020
St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro, NC

Eucharistic Congress: Sept 11, 2020

COMPLETED

Weekends Reunion

June 1, 2019
Sacred Heart, Salisbury, NC

National Encounter:

July 18-21, 2019
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Grand Ultreya: Sept 11-12 2019

(corrected since distribution)
Valley Haven Retreat Ctr, Hickory, NC

Fall Regional Encounter

October 18-19, 2019
Orlando, Florida

Contact Information

Candidate Weekend Application for
Sponsors is on the website.

Website: www.charlottecursillo.com

National: www.natl-cursillo.org



Kathy Crisson Completes Lay Director Assignment

Charlotte Lay Director, Kathy Crisson steps down to make way for newly appointed John Sequeira (more about him on the back of the Newsletter). Kathy agreed to provide some of her background, since she took on the assignment.

I am a small-town girl, born in Midwestern Olney, Illinois. My family soon moved to southern Indiana, and then to High Point, North Carolina while I was in the third grade. I grew up as a cradle Catholic along with three brothers and two sisters. We are a close-knit family, which my mother and father bolstered throughout the years with an annual week-long trip to the beach (now about 55 years) that included numerous relatives. This has given me a real appreciation for large families.

I have been married for almost 47 years to Jim, who is a cerebral type of guy (you know, one of those psychology professors), and can make me laugh. Those were two qualities I was looking for in an "eligible" spouse. Jim is currently enjoying his retirement. My work experience involved insurance and office positions in hospitals and doctors' offices. We are blessed to have our son, Matthew, also living in Greensboro.

I made my Cursillo in the Spring of 2001 at the Vineyard in Pilot Mountain. My sponsor was Chris Vandegrift, who along with her husband, Keith, were leading a 4-year Bible Study. After we got to know each other, they invited many from the Bible Study to make a Cursillo Weekend. Most went the year before I did because of a conflict in my schedule, but that just meant that I had a lot of friends to support and pray for me. The Lord knew what I needed and when I needed it.

The years have passed and I have grown to love this Movement and to see the power it has over lives. I can witness to the change in me since I lived my weekend, and can say, unequivocally, that serving as Lay Director has been a great honor as well as a challenge. Through God's grace and you, my friends, I have continued to grow spiritually. Peace and Ultreya. I will see you around the Diocese."

While it's informative to learn Kathy's background, it is important to know what has been accomplished during the time she has been Lay Director. So, we will touch on the Movement focus these past 3 years. The Charlotte Diocese Cursillo Newsletter was reinstated as was the Grand Ultreya. By-Laws were updated, and the Secretariat took on the task of updating/creating position descriptions for all its members. A Tracking Report lists all ongoing activities with accountability from Secretariat members. Sponsorship Guidelines were updated and reviewed, Candidate Application and other forms were revised, a Trifold Brochure was developed, and the Diocesan Cursillo Website has been expanded. We have a new Ultreya in Gastonia. We began a new event, the Weekend Reunion, to include men and women from the Weekends and help them in their 4th day. The School of Leaders is developing Breakout Sessions to help the work of the Movement: the Weekend Kitchen, the Rector Manuals, Growing Cursillo (to include group presentations), Eucharistic Congress representation, Grand Ultreya, and more. All of this increased energy and excitement has led to significant growth in our School of Leaders. Kathy continues to be involved, and is confident that the Holy Spirit is leading the Movement through the Secretariat, the School of Leaders, and the Cursillo community.

~ Tita Wofford, editor ~

Cursillo Questions: Contact the Lay Director on the website.

Cursillistas: Let us know what you would like to see covered in our Newsletter. Remember, it is for YOU.

Editor: Tita Wofford

Welcome John Sequeira – Lay Director



Our new Cursillo Lay Director, beginning January 1st of this year, is Dr. John Sequeira (yes, he actually has a Ph.D. in Economics which he says he has never used). John lived his Cursillo at the Men's 57th Weekend in February 2003 at St. Pius X in Greensboro. He has worked as team on four weekends but says "I'm a relative newcomer compared to the many seasoned veterans that surround me."

John and his wife, Molly (Women's 60th), hail from St. Matthew Catholic Church in Charlotte. They have two "definitely millennial" children (Chris and Katie) and have lived in Charlotte for 24+ years. Prior to this they followed John's business career and set up homes in Dallas TX, Washington DC, Bethesda MD, Denver CO, and such "glamorous" locations as Sao Paulo – Brazil, Jakarta – Indonesia, Cairo – Egypt, Tegucigalpa – Honduras, and San Juan – Puerto Rico.

John is currently retired but, prior to this, was a management consulting partner with Ernst & Young, LLP and later with Scott Madden. Molly has taught as a Special Education teacher and as a resource teacher at private and parochial schools in most of their home locations. No moss growing under these two. John and Molly are Eucharistic Ministers at St. Matthew. John is a member of the Charlotte Diocese Prison Ministry and in 2019 was invested as a Knight in the Order of Malta.

Welcome John, to what should be a new Cursillo adventure!

Spring Encounter

Please note that the Spring Encounter April 17-19 in Miami has been cancelled.

Greensboro Ultreya

"Make a Friend, Be A Friend, Bring a Friend to Christ"



We often get asked, "What is Ultreya and what is its purpose?" In official terms, this is what we should be saying:

Ultreya is a gathering of local Group Reunions that share their Christian commitments, growth, and apostolic work. It is also a place for new Cursillistas to gather, and to aid those not in a Group Reunion find one that is suitable for them.

The purpose of Ultreya is to encourage living the Faith, supporting other Cursillistas in their apostolic action through personal testimonies. It is a way for Christian friends who wish to keep alive the fundamental Christianity they experienced on the Weekend, and a means of unifying the Cursillistas into a movement.

Now, there is nothing wrong with this explanation; however, here in Greensboro, this is what it means to us:

Ultreya is a time for fellowship with our fellow Cursillista brothers and sisters in Christ. It is a time to catch up with friends, once a month, sharing a meal and conversation. It is a time to share our faith experiences with both men and women, outside of our Small Group Reunions. It is a time to listen as our fellow Cursillistas share their personal witness.

The Greensboro Ultreya meets on the second Sunday of every month, from 6:15 pm – 8:30 pm, in the Parish Life Center at St. Paul the Apostle in Greensboro. Cursillistas in the Greensboro area can come from a variety of churches: St. Paul the Apostle, St. Pius X, Our Lady of Grace, Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Mary's, St. Benedict's, Holy Cross, Our Lady of the Highways, Holy Infants, and St. Peter Yu.

We are blessed to have Deacon Mike Martini or Deacon Francis Skinner join us when their schedules allow. On many occasions, we are privileged to have both in attendance to gather us in prayer over the meal that we share before Ultreya begins. This is a great time for old friends to get together in fellowship, but for new friends as well.

We begin Ultreya by introducing ourselves by name, parish, weekend lived and table saint, often bringing lots of laughter when years and table saints are long forgotten! This is followed by our Ultreya Small Group Sharing and a lively rendition of DeColores if our resident musician, Christy Holmes, is in attendance.

Our witness talks bring it all together; the stories, the joys, the heartaches, the journeys – everyone has something to share. And the echoes and reflections of our spiritual advisors are heartfelt, thought-provoking, and often inspiring. Our time together is then closed with any announcements and prayer intentions.

For more information about the Greensboro Ultreya, please contact Mary and Bill Wells at greensboroultreya@gmail.com.